



2009 Guided Tours and Programs at the J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge

(Tours and programs are offered Jan 1 - March 31)

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:00 AM			Birding the Refuge Tour *Meet at flagpole		Birding the Refuge Tour *Meet at flagpole		
8:30 AM					Bailey Tract Tour *Meet at Bailey Tract Parking Lot		
9:30 AM	Birds and Wildlife Tour *Meet at flagpole	Birds and Wildlife Tour *Meet at flagpole	Birds and Wildlife Tour *Meet at flagpole	Birds and Wildlife Tour *Meet at flagpole	Birds and Wildlife Tour *Meet at flagpole		
10:00 AM		Biking the Refuge Tour *Meet at flagpole	Plants of the Bailey Tract Tour *Meet at Bailey Tract Parking Lot Biking the Refuge Tour *Meet at flagpole.	Biking the Refuge Tour *Meet at flagpole Native Plants and Trees Walk *flagpole	Biking the Refuge Tour *Meet at flagpole Butterflies and Butterfly Gardening *Crossdike	Indigo Trail Walk/Hike *Meet at flagpole	Gators and Crocs *Crossdike
11:00 AM	Florida Manatees *Crossdike	Birds of the Refuge *Crossdike	Family Craft and Story-time *Education Center Endangered Species *Crossdike	Gators and Crocs *Crossdike	Birds Bills and Beaks *Crossdike	Birds of the Refuge *Education Center	Shorebirds of the Refuge *Crossdike
12:00 PM	Butterflies and Butterfly Gardening *Crossdike	Florida's Venomous Wildlife *Education Center		Calusa/Shell Mound Trail Tour *Meet at Shell Mound Trail	Native Plants and Trees Walk *flagpole		
1:00 PM	Endangered Species *Crossdike	Fishing the Refuge *Crossdike	Gators and Crocs *Crossdike	Florida Manatees *Crossdike	Lecture Series *Education Center	Indigo Trail Walk/Hike *Meet at flagpole	Birds of the Refuge *Crossdike
2:00 PM						Florida Manatees *Education Center	Family Craft and Story - time *Education Center



All programs are free of charge and family friendly. Programs held on Wildlife Drive or Indigo Trail require entrance fees of \$5.00 per vehicle or \$1.00 per adult hiker or biker.



Tours Daily: Jan- March 2009	Entrance Fees Apply for Tours on Wildlife Drive
Birding the Refuge Meet a volunteer naturalist for a birding tour along Wildlife Drive. This car caravan tour takes you through some of the most popular birding locations in the refuge, specializing in bird identification. Bring water and bug spray. Meet at the flagpole in front of the Education Center. Advanced Birders Delight! 1 ½ hours	
Birds and Wildlife Tour Come along on a car caravan tour of the refuge. This tour highlights the many fascinating natural wonders of this unique mangrove ecosystem, and the wildlife that live here. The naturalists will give you an overview of all facets of the refuge. Meet at the flagpole. 1 ½ hours	
Bailey Tract Tour Join volunteer naturalists as they lead you through this freshwater spartina ecosystem to learn about the birds, wildlife, and wild flowers. Bring water and bug spray. Meet in the Bailey Tract Parking Lot. Fun for adults and children alike. Approximately 2 miles, 1 ½ hours	
Refuge Bike Tour Bike enthusiasts, bring your bicycle and join a volunteer naturalist on the Wildlife Drive/Indigo Trail loop to learn about the refuge's bird life and ecology. The Drive is paved while the Indigo Trail is hard-packed shell, so the tour is suitable for people of all abilities. Bring water and bug spray. Meet at the flagpole in front of the Education Center. Fun for adults and children alike. 4 miles, 1 ½ hours	
Calusa/Shell Mound Trail Tour Meet volunteer naturalists who will enthrall you with tales of Calusa Indian history and teach you about native Florida plant life on this enchanting boardwalk trail. Bring water and bug spray. Meet at the Shell Mound Trail Parking Lot. 1/3 mile, 12 - 2pm continuously.	
Indigo Trail Hike/Walk Volunteer naturalists lead a tour identifying and discussing the ecosystem's plants, animals, birds and reptiles. Bring water and bug spray. Meet at the flagpole in front of the Education Center. Fun for adults and children alike. Approximately 2 miles, 1 ½ hours	
Native Plants and Trees Walk Walk the parking area and the boardwalk of the Indigo Trail with a naturalist to learn about the plants and trees of Southwest Florida. Meet at the flagpole in front of the Education Center. Fun for adults and children alike. Approximately ¼ mile, 1 hour	
Plants of the Bailey Tract Walk the trails of the Bailey Tract with a naturalist to learn about the plants and trees of the freshwater ecosystem of Southwest Florida. Meet at the Bailey Tract Parking Lot. Fun for adults and children alike. Approximately 2 miles, 1 ½ hours	

Programs Daily: Jan- March 2009	Entrance Fees Apply for Programs at Crossdike Pavilion on Wildlife Drive
Endangered Species The habitats of animals throughout the world are disappearing, affecting species everywhere. Come discover endangered species of Southwest Florida and what you can do to help them. Fun for adults and children alike. 30 minutes	
Gators and Crocs Is it an alligator or crocodile? Learn about the order <i>Crocodylia</i> , including crocodiles, gharials, alligators, and caimans. Learn how to identify families and which species live in the refuge. Fun for adults and children alike. 30 minutes	
Birds, Bills, and Beaks . . . How do they eat? What is on the menu for the birds in the estuary? Learn how to identify the birds found in the refuge, their adaptations, and interesting facts about them. Watch a Refuge Ranger demonstrate how these birds use their specialized bills to find food in this diverse mangrove ecosystem. Fun for adults and children alike. 30 minutes	
Fishing the Refuge Is angling your sport? Come learn what types of fish frequent refuge waters. See where to look for them and what baits and lures to use to catch them. This program is a must for both novice and experienced anglers. Fun for adults and children alike. 30 minutes	
Butterflies and Butterfly Gardening Want to find out how to attract the natural beauty of butterflies to your yard? Join a naturalist for pointers on this wonderful family project. We will also help you identify the butterflies you'll see fluttering around the refuge. Fun for adults and children alike. 45 minutes	
Birds of the Refuge Not sure which feathery friends you are seeing through your binoculars? Learn interesting facts about birds and how to identify them in the estuary. Fun for adults and children alike. 30 minutes	
Manatees Explore the world of one of America's most endangered species, the Florida manatee, as it faces a challenging future. Find out what you can do to help save this species. Fun for adults and children alike. 30 minutes	
Family Craft and Story-time Join a naturalist for story-time at our refuge. Bring your family to hear an exciting story followed by a program and craft highlighting an animal in our estuarine ecosystem. Story-time is appropriate for pre-K through 8 th , but everyone is welcome to attend. A new, exciting topic each week. 45 minutes	
Florida's Venomous Wildlife Come learn about the venomous wildlife that live in Southwest Florida. We will teach you how to identify the animals and their habitats. Fun for adults and children alike. 30 minutes	
Shorebirds Come learn how to identify the small waterbirds found in the refuge. 30 minutes	

